Joint Force Trainer Community

USJFCOM's Joint Force Trainer community has a global responsibility for training in support of joint warfighter development. The command works with a broad range of stakeholders including:

- The Office of Secretary of Defense
- The Joint Staff
- The services and unified commands
- Interagency and multinational partners

A key to success is its continued effort to build an interdependent and collaborative atmosphere for broadening and deepening joint context and continuing to ensure joint training is the integrating environment for transformation.

Transforming Training

The Joint National Training Capability (JNTC) serves as the heart of training transformation. This enhanced training capability is one of three focal points in the Secretary of Defense's Training Transformation Plan. It covers the full spectrum of warfighter decision-making — from the strategic and operational — to tactical levels of war.

want to take a course, if you want to read articles, if you would like to see lessons learned, if you would like to see a list of subject matter experts and their contact information — when they are available, where to call or their e-mail addresses. Or a user can enter a chat room and find out who is up.

The portal offers the entire spectrum of choices because we understand that what you have said is right. For example, senior people, historically, like to talk to other senior people. A flag officer in the field that wants to talk about stability reconstruction may want to talk to his old professor at the National Defense University, or a flag officer who retired a few years ago, or a flag officer doing the same thing in another part of the world. Through our JKDDC portal, we have ways to make those connections available to the user. That is in our plan for fiscal year 2007.

We also understand that the younger generation likes to get into blogs, Web sites where everybody is talking to everybody else. This is the way they learn best. They like to play games, and we are offering games as a learning venue.

We are offering the total spectrum, the total menu of different ways that the user can get the information and the knowledge that they need to do their jobs even if it is just to talk to someone else.

CHIPS: Your portal sounds like decision-support technology.

Mr. Camacho: That is one of its key dimensions. It can be used for decision support. It can be used for performance enhancement or mentoring. It can be used for information gathering and lessons learned. It can be used for whatever the user decides he or she needs. It was designed that way.

This is an important program, not for the technology, that clearly is the enabling piece, but at the end of the day it is all about giving the warfighters what they need.

We are operators in JFCOM, and we have operationalized this concept with our plans. Hopefully, in fiscal year 2007, we will be able to deliver to the warfighter a technology-enabled system that will give them what they need to do their jobs better. That is our mission. CHIPS

USJFCOM's New Supercomputer

By Robert Pursell, USJFCOM Public Affairs

The High Performance Computing Modernization Program (HPCMP) recently assigned a supercomputer to U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM) that will enhance experimentation and training efforts in modeling and simulation.

The supercomputer is much larger and more powerful than the machines used today and will yield finer details when it comes to imaging and behavior at a faster speed.

The supercomputer will be operated mostly by the Joint Training Directorate (J7) and Joint Experimentation Directorate (J9), housed in the Joint Training and Experimentation Center and accessed through the Defense Research and Engineering Network (DREN).

The DREN is an official Department of Defense network specifically designed for computational research, engineering and testing, and is used to transfer leading network and security technologies and capabilities across the DoD and other federal agencies.

Jim Blank, USJFCOM J9 modeling and simulation division chief, explained the command's plan for using the machine.

"There's been a shift in focus, as you can imagine, from rolling deserts and plains to an urban environment," he said. "You can't model an urban environment without modeling the people. That is the most important part of the city."

Tony Cerri, J9's experimentation engineering department head, gave an example of how the supercomputer will affect a simulation of Baghdad.

"In a city like Baghdad, we can say this would be morning rush hour, all of the sudden 500,000 people get up and go to work. That's not something that we've been able to do very well," Cerri said.

Blank discussed the difference between the horsepower of a regular computer versus a supercomputer and how it impacts each individual item (called an "entity") in the simulations.

"It's fidelity versus scale. Typically, as you've increased the number of entities that you put into a simulation, your resolution of any particular entity has gone down because you just can't support a million entities at a constant level of resolution. Our entities have behaviors associated with them. Now we can maintain the full behavior characteristics of the entity as we scale out to a million," Blank said.

"In a previous life, we ran about 32,000 entities at any given time. That was probably the max that we were capable of. With supercomputers, you can run over one million entities, and we've done it," he added.

Blank said the advantage of having a supercomputer housed at USJFCOM will enhance capability and make development much easier.

USJFCOM accomplished this effort with the help of the University of Southern California Information Science Institute, which played a major part in working with the HPCMP to acquire the supercomputer. USJFCOM was negotiating for about a year before it received the final approval.

"They have significant supercomputer experience, and we worked fairly close with them because of their expertise to keep us smart, engaged and in the right direction," Blank said.

For more information, go to http://www.jfcom.mil/about/abt_j7.htm or phone USJFCOM public affairs office at (757) 836-6555. CHIPS